

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A print data management apparatus for registering, in response to a data registration request which includes print data, the print data and for providing, in response to a data usage request, the print data relating to the data usage request, comprising:

a storage device that performs registration of the print data;

a registration device that registers the print data in said storage device; and

a providing device that provides the print data in said storage device;

such that, when the data registration request is received, said registration device registers the print data included in the received data registration request in said storage device, in association with authentication information for authenticating whether or not a user is eligible to use the print data, and said registration device transmits to a terminal designated by the data registration request, usage certificate data which includes the authentication information; and

when the data usage request which includes the authentication information is received, and when the authentication information in said storage device that corresponds to the print data relating to the received data usage request and the authentication information included in the received data usage request satisfy a predetermined relationship, said providing device transmits to a terminal designated by the data usage request the print data in said storage device relating to the received data usage request.

2. (Previously Presented) The print data management apparatus according to Claim 1,

said registration device registering the print data included in the received data registration request in said storage device, in association with usage count information which indicates the number of times the print data is permitted to be used; and

when a usage count in the usage count information in said storage device which corresponds to the print data relating to the received data usage request is greater than or equal to a predetermined number, said providing device transmitting the print data in said storage device relating to the received data usage request to a print terminal, and, when the usage count in the usage count information is less than the predetermined number, transmission of the print data is prohibited.

3. (Previously Presented) The print data management apparatus according to claim 1,

the usage certificate data further including a network address that uniquely specifies the location of the apparatus on a network to which the apparatus is connected.

4. (Previously Presented) The print data management apparatus according to claim 1,

the usage certificate data further including a network address that uniquely specifies, on a network, the storage location of a program that transmits the data usage request which includes the authentication information to the apparatus, the program being stored in the network.

5. (Previously Presented) The print data management apparatus according to claim 1,

when a network address is included in the data registration request, said registration device transmitting the usage certificate data to a destination specified by the network address, and, when no network address is included in the data registration request,

said registration device transmitting the usage certificate data to the sender of the data registration request.

6. (Previously Presented) The print data management apparatus according to claim 1,

when a network address is included in the data usage request, said providing device transmitting the print data to a destination specified by the network address, and, when no network address is included in the data usage request, said providing device transmitting the print data to the sender of the data usage request.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored therein a print data management program to be applied to the print data management apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, comprising:

a program for causing a computer to perform processing implemented by the registration device that registers print data in the storage device and processing implemented by the providing device that provides the print data in said storage device;

such that, when a data registration request is received, said registration device registers the print data included in the received data registration request in said storage device, in association with authentication information that authenticates whether or not a user is eligible to use the print data, and said registration device transmits to the terminal designated by the data registration request usage certificate data which includes the authentication information; and

when a data usage request which includes the authentication information is received, and when the authentication information in said storage device which corresponds to the print data relating to the received data usage request and the authentication information included in the received data usage request satisfy a predetermined relationship, said

providing device transmits to the terminal designated by the data usage request the print data in said storage device relating to the received data usage request.

8. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium having stored therein usage certificate data to be transmitted by the print data management apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, comprising:

a program for storing authentication information that authenticates, by said print data management apparatus, whether or not a user is eligible to use the print data and a network address that uniquely specifies, on a network, the storage location of a program for transmitting a data usage request that includes the authentication information to said print data management apparatus, the program being stored in the network.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of using print data by a computer system, comprising:

providing print data with a provider, including: registering the print data in a storage device in association with authentication information that authenticates whether or not a user is eligible to use the print data; and transmitting to a terminal designated by the data registration request usage certificate information that includes the authentication information to the user of the print data;

with a user, receiving the usage certificate data; and transmitting a data usage request which includes the authentication information; and

the providing ~~step~~ further including receiving the data usage request; and transmitting to a terminal designated by the data usage request the print data in said storage device relating to the received data usage request when the authentication information in said storage device that corresponds to the print data relating to the received data usage request and the authentication information included in the received data usage request satisfy a predetermined relationship.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of using print data according to Claim 9, the providing step further including registering the print data in said storage device in association with usage count information that indicates the number of times the print data is permitted to be used; and transmitting, when a usage count in the usage count information in said storage device that corresponds to the print data relating to the received data usage request is greater than or equal to a predetermined number, the print data in said storage device that corresponds to the received data usage request to a print terminal, and prohibiting transmission of the print data when the usage count in said usage count information is less than the predetermined number.

11. (New) The print data management apparatus according to Claim 1, when the terminal is not designated by at least one of the data registration request and the data usage request, the usage certificate data and print data being transmitted to transmission origin of the data registration request and the data usage request.

12. (New) The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 7, when the terminal is not designated by at least one of the data registration request and the data usage request, the usage certificate data and print data being transmitted to transmission origin of the data registration request and the data usage request.

13. (New) The method for using print data according to Claim 9, the transmitting further including, when the terminal is not designated by at least one of the data registration request and the data usage request, transmitting to transmission origin of the data registration request and the data usage request.